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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



# JUVENILE JUSTICE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM

200 W. Baltimore Street ♦ Baltimore MD 21201 ♦ Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

July 2002

## ***What is the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Pilot Program (JJAEP)?***

The Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Pilot Program is designed to serve high school students who exhibit chronic, escalating patterns of misbehavior that may ultimately result in expulsion from school and/or involvement with the court system. The school is located in Prince George's County and will open in January 2003.

## ***What population will be served by the program?***

High school students enrolled in Prince George's County Public Schools who meet the following criteria may be enrolled in the program:

- Students with a history of misbehavior as evidenced by frequent office referrals and repeated suspensions or expulsions
- Students referred by the Circuit Court Division, Prince George's County
- Students who have been unsuccessful in changing their patterns of misbehavior after previous interventions on the part of school officials
- Students with a history of poor attendance, low academic achievement, disruptive behavior, frequent involvement in conflicts, substance abuse, and those placed on probation by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

## ***What is the goal of the program?***

The goal of the alternative pilot program is to help students develop the social skills and educational expertise to become successful in the next phase of their education or in the work place. The pilot program will be rigorously evaluated in order to facilitate replication in other areas of Maryland.

## ***Who is involved in the administration of the JJAEP?***

As a result of a competitive process, Prince George's County Public Schools was selected to host the pilot program. Several community agencies will partner with PGCPSS in running this innovative program. These agencies include the 7th Judicial Circuit Court of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, the Prince George's County Health Department, the Prince George's County Department of Social Services, and the Prince George's County Career Connections®. The Maryland State Department of Education will provide assistance in the form of resources and technical expertise.

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***What are the unique features of the program?***

- Through the development of individualized instructional and behavioral management plans, students will set goals and come to appreciate the cause/effect relationship between responsible behavior and goal achievement.
- When students exit the program, a transition coordinator will monitor their progress for at least one year. Students will be paired with an adult mentor who will remain with them during enrollment in the pilot program and when the student returns to the home school.
- Upon completion of the program and return to the home school, a transition plan will be developed in conjunction with professionals at the student's home school. A transition coordinator will extensively monitor the student's progress for a least one year.
- The use of computers as an integral part of the instructional program.
- The ability to earn privileges for excellent attendance, work accomplishments, and assuming responsibility for actions.
- A very low teacher to student ratio.

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***Who should I contact for more information about the program?***

Prince George's County:

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